A photograph of a house and trees under an orange sky. A large leaf is in the foreground.

SERIOUS PHOTO STUFF

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Undeniably

SERIOUS PHOTO STUFF

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Nikon D50, Nikkor
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100



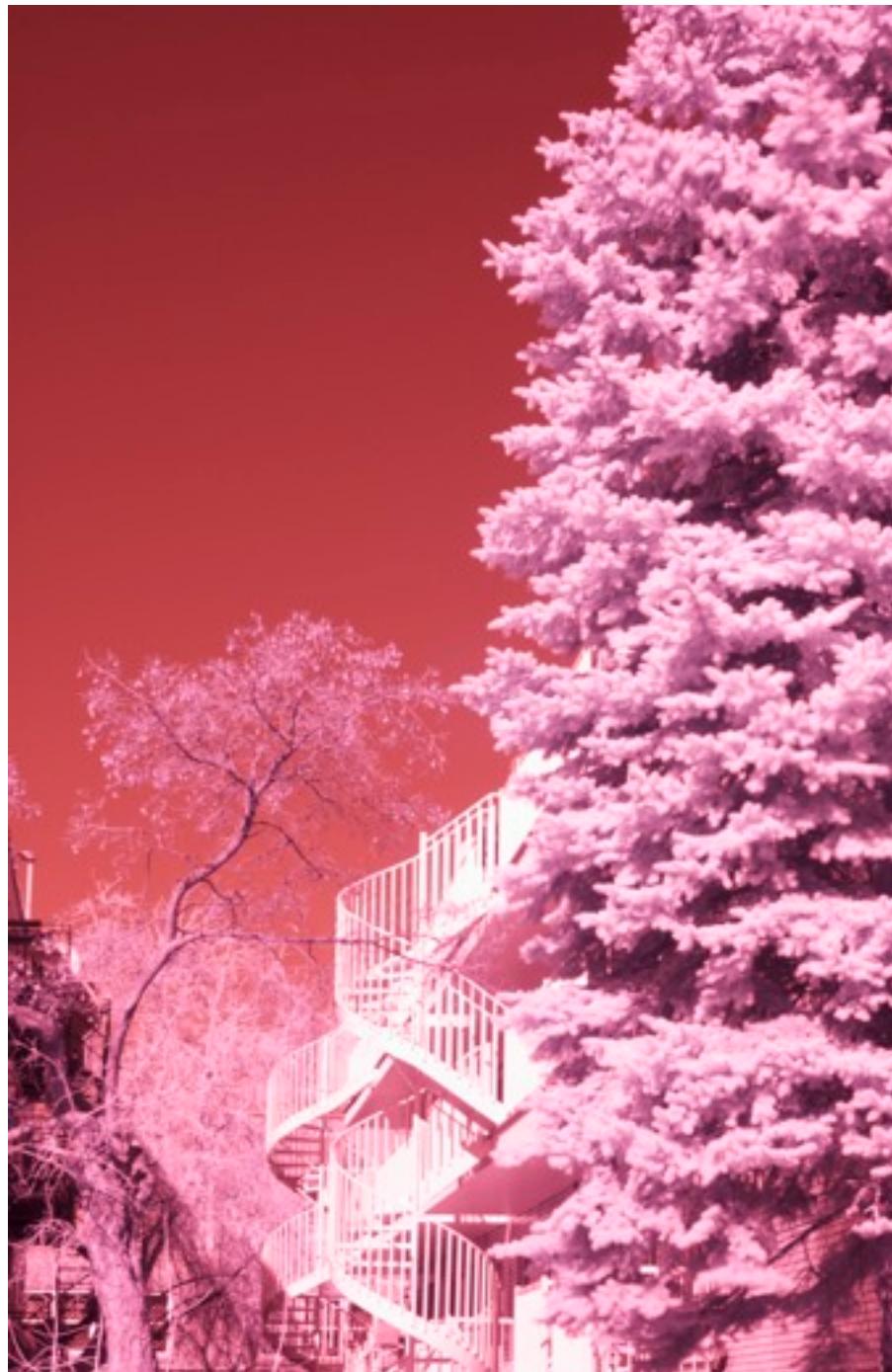
I think of two things when I admire summer foliage. The second thing is how an alien from a solar system with a red star would see our plant life.

Alien eyes



I would name this extra-terrestrial “Crimson”. Crimson would give me a name, the equivalent of “Yellow”. We would laugh as we tried to teach the other how to pronounce these names, sparking a long friendship. We would spend years teaching each other about our cultures, sciences, and histories.

At first I would ignore Crimson’s questions about the human fascination with the alleged colours of flowers and plants. We would agree that their shapes and textures are beautiful, but our arguments about colour would eventually separate us by an emotional distance greater than the interstellar one.



Then years later, I would dust off an old box of forgotten photos that Crimson had given me. Looking through them, I

would suddenly, regretfully understand Crimson's unsatisfied curiosity and my stubborn ignorance. My only consolation would be to remember how I hated that drooling, triple-forked tongue and the way it said "Tchrimshon" with that droning, high-pitched giggle. **sPS**







My court-appointed therapist told me to write what I day dream about. But she says things like that all the time. Still, I should thank her for my improved ability to tune people out. Once, when she was going on about the judge being concerned about something, I started thinking about the ideal camera.

Platonic photographic

Cameras these days do too little of everything and not enough of what they're supposed to. Example: Samsung® just announced some camera that runs Android®™. When the camera app starts updating and stops you from capturing your child's first birthday cake you can just Yabingoogle™®© someone else's pics.

There's even an app for when your in-laws ask why your daughter looks exactly like a baby in a year-old article from a cake decorating web site.

My ideal camera would be dedicated to taking pictures. I want to trade false convenience and unnecessary complexity for better choice, flexibility, and simplicity.

Glass

A normal lens with a big aperture. I'd fix this lens to the camera and give it a lens cap that operates automatically. The front would have threads for filters, of course.

Image medium

Film has some useful and creative advantages over digital cameras. But my ideal camera would have a digital sensor. It would have the dynamic range, resolution, and sensitivity of an over-clocked James Webb telescope. Following the cutting edge research in marketing, I'd pair this sensor with the image processor that has the most misspelled all-caps words and roman numerals in its name.



Viewfinder

I prefer a viewfinder for composing. Maybe the biggest reason I use film cameras is because of their big, bright viewfinders. Looking through the viewfinder on most digital cameras, if there is one at all, is like trying to shoot something at the other end of a train tunnel.

I feel like a hairier Wile E. Coyote.

My camera's viewfinder can be digital, optical, or a hybrid. It just has to simultaneously show the lens's image and information about exposure and configuration.

Screen

No screen. It eats battery duration and 3 inches is useless.

Now I think I know what my wife means when she says that size matters.

People carry bigger, brighter, high-resolution screens with them already. They're called phones, tablets, and laptops. Did I mention that my ideal camera has seamless, secure wireless communication and apps for chimping, editing, and viewing? Well it does.

Focusing

Manual only. "Auto-focus" is an oxymoron. A range finding or micro-prism viewfinder is simple, fast, and accurate.

Flash

Hot shoe only, no pop-up fill-in flash. Also, external flash has its own power so the camera's battery can spend all of its juice on photography.

Light meter and exposure modes

One metering mode: center weighted. And one exposure mode: manual. Aperture priority and shutter priority are nice-to-haves. To change shutter speed and aperture ratio, I like the front and back thumb wheel arrangement.

Bracketed exposure modes would be nice to have too, considering that this camera completely off-loads its post-production.

ISO sensitivity would range from, say, 100 to whatever the highest is these days, something next to or at infinity.

On-camera editing and configuration

The hardware on digital cameras wins at reliability, accuracy, and intuitiveness. The software wins at inconsistency, extravagancy, and obscurity.

Just because a manufacturer can inexpensively add software features to a camera's software doesn't mean the manufacturer should. Virtual filters, cropping, and other editing features will be banned from my ideal camera.

And the world will be better off with the reduced use of single-tap sepia + vignetting.

Video

Absolutely.

Let me finish that last sentence.

Not. ~~s~~PS

(Written for Photographic Mosaics.)

MY LUBRICATOR.

BY FRANK THOMAS,
Columbia, Mo.

MY lubricator is made as follows: 100 grains of pure white wax, scraped fine; dissolve it in $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of pure benzole; add 8 ounces of 98 per cent. alcohol and 1 ounce of chloroform. Shake well. Apply the lubricator with a tuft of cotton in the usual manner. When thoroughly dry rub prints briskly with a piece of Canton flannel until all traces of lubricator are removed. Have burnisher hissing hot, give all the pressure the picture will stand, and you will have a fine gloss. Should it solidify in cold weather, warm it, and it will work fine. I have tried every kind of lubricator, and this is the best I ever used.

**Sure, these events will get you somewhere physically.
But bring your camera to really transport yourself.**

Transcendent transportation

GENGHIS KHAN MTB ADVENTURE & GRASSLAND
EXTREME MARATHON

July 5-7, Xiwuqi, Xilinhot, Inner Mongolia
www.grasslandextrememarathon.com

DRAGON BOAT RACES

July 6, St-Georges, Qc, Canada
www.fetes-st-georges.com

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW

July 19-21, Atlanta, GA, USA
www.nationaltrainshow.org/2013/atlanta.html

UNICYCLE NATIONALS

July 20-27, Butler County, PA, USA
uninationals2013.com

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